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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05

BIB-01 DODE-00 /083 W
---------- 019900
R 140837Z JAN 75
FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5372
INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 0243

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, TECH, IAEA
SUBJ: IAEA PROPOSED ACTIVITIES ON PNES

REF: (A) STATE 282582 (B) IAEA VIENNA 0188

1. SUMMARY CONTENTS REFTEL (A) DISCUSSED WITH DG EKLUND ON JANUARY 9. EKLUND DID NOT FULLY CONCUR WITH REASONING SET FORTH REFTEL WITH RESPECT TO CREATION OF PNE UNIT IN SECRETARIAT. WHILE EKLUND MAY RECONSIDER MATTER, HE EXPRESSED VIEW THINGS HAD GONE TOO FAR TO TURN BACK. HE WILL PROBABLY ANNOUNCE CREATION OF UNIT IN NEAR FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. EKLUND RESPONDED WITH A SIGH WHEN I PRESENTED US VIEWS (REFTEL A) WITH RESPECT TO HOLDING OFF ON THE CREATION OF PNE ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT IN SECRETARIAT. HE SAID FRANKLY HE WOULD BE HAPPY IF AGENCY COULD WIPE ITS HANDS OF THE PNE PROBLEM AND TURN ITS ATTENTION AND RESOURCES TO MORE PRODUCTIVE PROGRAMS. NONETHELESS, HE HAD FELT NECESSITY TO RESPOND TO THE CONCERNS OF MEMBER STATES AS WELL AS THE UNGA RESOLUTIONS ON THE SUBJECT. CREATION OF THE UNIT HAD BEEN INITIATED ON HIS PART AS, INTER ALIA, A HELPFUL POLITICAL STEP TO KEEP THE PNE
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QUESTION IN PERSPECTIVE AND TO MINIMIZE UNNECESSARY

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DEBATE AT NPT REVCON.

3. IF AGENCY WERE EFFECTIVELY TO PERFORM THE MANY STUDIES REQUIRED OF IT IN ALL FACETS OF PNE ACTIVITY THERE WAS NEED FOR AN INTERNAL COORDINATING MECHANISM WHICH THE UNIT WOULD PROVIDE. HE ALSO FELT THERE WAS UTILITY IN SHOWING THAT THE AGENCY WAS READY TO CARRY OUT ITS NPT ARTICLE 5 RESPONSIBILITIES BUT MADE TOTALLY CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT THE EXISTENCE OF THE UNIT TO HAVE ANY EFFECT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER ON THE POSSIBLE SUBMISSION BY MEMBER STATES OF REQUESTS FOR PNE SERVICES. HE SAID THAT THE UNIT IN THIS SENCE WOULD BE PURELY A POLITICAL FACADE BUT HE FELT THE FACADE WAS WORTHWHILE IF IT WOULD REDUCE THE TIRESOME DEBATE IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA ON THE SUBJECT OF INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PNE SERVICES.

4. CREATION OF THE UNIT WOULD CHANGE NOTHING IN TERMS OF ALLOCATION OF AGENCY MANPOWER AND RESOURCES. AS ADDITIONAL DUTIES AGENCY WOULD ASSIGN (ON PAPER) AN ENGINEER, A LAWYER, AN ECONOMIST AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS TO THE UNIT. EACH WOULD CONTINUE IN HIS PRESENT CAPACITY AT HIS PRESENT DESK. THE LAWYERS WOULD CARRY OUT THEIR LEGAL WORK WITHIN (AND AS A PART OF) THE NORMAL WORK OF THE LEGAL DIVISION. OTWAY (US) WOULD BE NOMINAL HEAD OF THE UNIT SIMPLY BECAUSE HE IS THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE SECRETARIAT STAFF MEMBER ON PNE TECHNICAL MATTERS. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, OTWAY ALREADY BUSY FULL TIME ON IMPORTANT JOINT IAEA-IIASA RISK ANALYSIS PROJECT, AND HIS INVOLVEMENT WILL BE MINIMAL.

5. EKLUND EXPECTS REPORT TO THE BOARD ON THE CREATION OF THE UNIT ALONG LINES OUTLINED ABOVE AND WILL MAKE CLEAR THAT HE IS NOT HIRING NEW PERSONNEL OR DIVERTING OTHER RESOURCES TO PNE WORK. WE ASSUME HE WILL ALSO POINT OUT THAT A PRINCIPAL REASON FOR CREATION OF THE UNIT AT THIS TIME IS TO FACILITATE THE STUDIES WITH WHICH THE AGENCY IS SEIZED BY THE UN AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS' RESOLUTIONS.

6. EKLUND ALSO POINTED OUT THAT HE HAS HAD EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH MAJOR MEMBER STATES ON HIS PLAN OF ACTION WITH REFERENCE TO PNES, INCLUDING CREATION OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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UNIT. THERE HAS BEEN NO DISSENT. ON THE BASIS OF THIS HE HAS INFORMED MOST MEMBER STATES OF HIS INTENT TO CREATE THE UNIT BEFORE THE FEBRUARY BOARD. HE DOUBTS THAT AN ABRUPT CHANGE OF DIRECTION NOW IN POSTPONING CREATION OF THE UNIT WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD. IT WOULD CERTAINLY CAUSE CONFUSION IN RAISING QUESTIONS AS TO HIS MOTIVES. HE REASSURED ME THAT HIS OBJECTIVES WERE IDENTICAL TO OURS,
DESIGNED TO KEEP PNE QUESTIONS IN THE PROPER

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POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL PERSPECTIVE.

7. I ALSO DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF THE PNE UNIT BRIEFLY WITH CHERNILIN (USSR), DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR TECHNICAL OPERATIONS, WITHOUT REVEALING NATURE OF US CONCERNS WITH RESPECT TO CREATION OF UNIT. I SIMPLY TOLD HIM I HAD BEEN HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ON THE UNIT AND WONDERED WHETHER THE IDEA WAS NOT PREMATURE, PARTICULARLY SINCE NO REQUESTS FOR PNE SERVICES APPEARED TO BE ON THE HORIZON. CHERNILIN, WHO HAD ORIGINALLY OPPOSED THE CREATION OF THE UNIT, SAID HE HAD NOW HAD HIS OWN SECOND THOUGHTS AND THOUGHT IT SHOULD BE SET UP. HE REASONED THAT THIS WOULD HELP IN THE NPT REVCON AND IN ANY CASE IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE SOME SORT OF A COOR-DINATING MECHANISM FOR THE INTERNAL SECRETARIAT WORK WHICH WAS REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF THE NUMEROUS STUDIES UNDERWAY OR TO BE CARRIED OUT ON THE MANY ASPECTS OF PNES. HERNILIN GAVE AS HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE A LONG TIME IF EVER BEFORE THE AGENCY WAS SEIZED WITH A PNE REQUEST. HE CONJEC-TURED THAT THE UNIT MIGHT OUTLIVE ITS PURPOSE AFTER IT HAD DONE ITS PRESENT WORK AND IN "PERHAPS TWO YEARS" IT COULD BE ABOLISHED OR ALLOWED TO DIE ON THE VINE.

8. COMMENT: MISSION DOES NOT WHOLLY SHARE CONCERN EXPRESSED REFTEL (A) WITH RESPECT TO CREATION OF PNE UNIT. FORMATION OF UNIT WILL NOT ENCOURAGE A RUSH FOR REQUESTS FOR PERFORMANCE OF PNE SERVICES BY AGENCY, AND WE THINK MOST MEMBER STATES WILL DEEM IT APPROPRIATE FOR DG TO ESTABLISH AN INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH HE CAN DEAL WITH ONGOING PNE STUDIES. IN ANY CASE, WE THINK WE HAVE GONE AS FAR AS WE SHOULD IN REOPENING QUESTION WITH A DG WHO IS NEAR THE POINT OF SURFEIT ON THE SUBJECT. AS A RESULT OF OUR APPROACH HE MAY HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS AND DECIDE TO HOLD OFF, BUT WE INCLINED
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TO DOUBT IT. IT IS HARD FOR US TO VISUALIZE WHAT DAMAGE TO OUR POSITION MIGHT ENSUE.PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975IAEAV00243
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750013-0960
From: IAEA VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750154/aaaabvnq.tel
Line Count: 156
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 282582, 75 IAEA VIENNA 0188
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAR 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <02 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IAEA PROPOSED ACTIVITIES ON PNES
TAGS: PARM, TECH, US, IAEA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006